

HELIX HORTENSIS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Animal Limax.

Testa univalvis, spiralis, subdiaphana, fragilis.

Apertura coarctata, intus lunata, s. subrotunda :
segmento circulo dempto.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1241.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

HELIX testa imperforata pallida, fasciis latis interruptis fuscis.

COCHLEA vulgaris major pulla maculata et fasciata hortensis.

List. Angl. tab. 2. fig. 2.

AN HELIX LUCORUM?

Lin.

Militat omnis amans, et habet sua castra Cupido :
Attice, crede mihi ; militat omnis amans.

Ov.

Helix vulgaris, seu ut communiter vocatur, Cochlea, in numero est animalium quæ ob vilitatem, formamque sordidam et abjectam, a plerisque contemni et negligi solent ; in quibus tamen plura fortasse discernere

cernere potest phycus quæ delectationem admirationemque excitent, quam vel in majoribus animalibus. Cochlearum enim anatoine adeo miraculis plena est, ut de variis illarum partibus integrum volumen posset componi. Cum vero longis ambagibus speciatim has minutias describere lectoribus plurimis molestum sit, breviter tantum illa percurrentes memoratu dignissima. Oculi Cochlearum in summitatibus duorum longiorum tentaculorum, seu ut vulgo vocantur, cornuum siti sunt: quod licet a quibusdam phycis dubitatum sit, ab experimentis tamen et accuratissimis Swammerdamii investigationibus clare confirmatur: probatur quoque eos eosdem fere humores, tunicas, et vasa, quibus animalium majorum oculi instruuntur, continere. Non defuere qui Cochlearum cornua pro veris telescopiis naturalibus habuerunt, asserueruntque posse illas ea vel extendere vel contrahere pro distantia objecti ad quod oculos direxerint. Hæc autem idea structuram magis multimodam arguit, quam revera his organis tribuit Natura, et fortasse inter plurimas sit hæc hypothesis, quas ingenio suo indulgere solent nonnulli Naturæ speculatores.

Dentes Cochleæ sunt validi et acuti; omnesque corporis partes tam interiores quam exteriores ad animalis istius mores habitusque egregie accommodantur.

De miro generandi modo dicturus, lectores meos enixe orem necesse est ut nec me fabulas philosophicas fingere existiment, nec fidem suam deficere et immiui sinant.

Si quidem vera nobis referunt oculati Naturæ inter animalia inferiora investigatores, Cochlearum amores
inufitato

inufitato et ſibi peculiari quodam more promoventur ; ſemperque ipſum complexum præcedit mira formula, quæ pugnæ ſtatariaæ faciem omnino exhibet.

Cochleæ laſcivientes mutua vota telorum parvulorum iſtibus, quæ peracuta ſunt et quaſi cornea, ſibi invicem communicant ; illiſque refertam pharetram exiguam, in dextro latere cervicis ſitam, quamdiu permanſerit illis conjunctionis deſiderium, intus geſtant. Emiſſo primo telo, illico reſpondet Cochlea vulnerata, et ſimile in amantem jaculatur ; ab illa telum alterum emittitur, ruſuſque ipſa invicem percutitur ; Cupidiniſque ſagittæ, quas per omne ævum cecinit fervidum poetarum et amantium ingenium, in ipſa tandem Natura revera inveniuntur. Peraſto hoc leſido prælio, cocunt Cochleæ, et deinde locum idoneum ubi ova ſua deponant ſollicite quæritant ; humidum nempe et opacum reſeſſum, vel ſub terræ gleba, vel cavo aliquo tegmine. Rotunda ſunt hæc ova, magnitudine ſere piſorum parvulorum, coloris albi ſubpellucentis, et ſubſtantiæ mollis. Ex his excluduntur Cochleæ plene formataæ, teſtas ſuas in dorſo ſerentes, nec ullam aliam mutationem præter naturale molis incrementum ſubeunt. Hortis et pomariis damnum non leve inferre ſolent Cochleæ, et notatu dignum eſt, illas, ſi deſecerit cibis ſucculentus, fruſtus nempe aut folia, corpora etiam dura et ſicca rodere : meminini enim egomet Hellicem hortenſem, (qualis eſt illa quæ hic depingitur,) ſub vitro cujus diameter quatuor uncias ſuperabat incluſam, ſubſtrata chartam communem cæruleam una nocte uſque ad ipſius vitri marginem devoraſſe ; circulo relicto velut ab ipſo circino deſignato.

Ab

Ab experimentis Spallanzanii aliorumque probatur, Cochleas, abscissa aliqua parte, repullulandi facultatem habere : ipse enim Spallanzanius Cochleæ caput abscidit, quod, elapso certo tempore perfecte regerminabat. Hujus experimenti veritas, licet a nonnullis denegetur, ab aliorum tamen doctissimorum physicorum testimonio fatis comprobatur.

Quanquam variis intervallis sagittas suas jaculentur Cochleæ, fatendum tamen est tabulam repræsentare illas plus æquo a se invicem remotas. Plerumque propius accedunt; immo interdum fit ut telum ipsum, gladii instar, in corpore opposito infixum stet, dum Cochlea quæ jaculum emisit, recedit paululum, sagittam quasi commilitonis sui expectans.



London, Published May 1st 1790 by F. R. Nodden & Co. N. B. Panton Street.

THE
GARDEN SNAIL.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

The *Animal* a Slug.
Shell spiral, sub-pellucid.
Aperture semi-lunar.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SNAIL with a shell of a pale colour, with broad interrupted bands of brown.

The COMMON GARDEN SNAIL.

See to the fight the gentle warriors move,
And dart with harmless force the shafts of love!

The Snail is amongst the number of those animals which we are apt to overlook on account of their seemingly contemptible appearance, but which will perhaps open to our attentive survey a greater variety of curious particularities than most other creatures can exhibit. The anatomy of the snail is full of wonders, and a volume might be written on its history; but, without descending to a tedious narrative of all its parts, I shall only mention a few of the most remarkable ones. The eyes of Snails are situated on the tips of the two longest horns, and though their existence
has

has been questioned by some Naturalists, yet the accurate research of SWAMMERDAM has sufficiently proved their real nature, and that they are furnished with nearly the same humours, coats, and vessels as in most of the larger animals. Some authors have supposed the horns to be a kind of natural telescopes, and that the animal shortened or lengthened them according to the distance of the objects to which it directed them; but this idea seems to imply a more complicated structure than can be found in this organ, and, I believe, must be given up as one of those ingenious hypotheses which are too frequently entertained by speculative enquirers.

The teeth of the Snail are sharp and strong, and all the internal as well as external parts of the creature are admirably calculated by Nature for the mode of life to which it is destined.

But the most wonderful part of the history of the Snail, is its manner of breeding; and I must request my readers to summon all their philosophical faith to receive the surprising particulars.

If the observations of the most profound enquirers into the operations of Nature amongst the lower orders of animals may be depended upon, the amours of Snails are conducted in a manner very different from those of most other creatures, and are always preceded by a very extraordinary ceremonial, which has all the appearance of a regular combat.

When these animals are disposed to love, they signify their mutual wishes by launching several little darts at each other. These darts are of a very sharp form, and of a horny substance, and the animals are provided with

with a little quiver or reservoir of them during the breeding season: this internal quiver or repository of the darts is situated within the neck, and opens externally on the right side. Upon the discharge of the first dart, the wounded Snail immediately retaliates upon the aggressor, and discharges a similar one; the other again renews the battle, and is again in its turn wounded; and thus the darts of Cupid, so long and loudly celebrated by poets and lovers, and which are metaphorical with all the rest of the creation, are here completely realized. When the animals have continued for some time the combat just described, a reconciliation takes place, and they unite; after which they are solicitous to deposit their eggs in a place of safety. For this purpose they choose a moist, cool situation, generally under some little clod, or in some small sheltered cavity, in which they place them: they are perfectly round; about the size of very small pease, of a semi-transparent white colour, and of a soft substance: from these the young are hatched completely formed, and with their shells on their backs, and undergo no farther change than a gradual increase of size.

The depredations which these animals commit in gardens and orchards is very considerable, and it is remarkable that in defect of moist succulent food, as fruit and tender leaves, they will even attack substances of a hard and dry nature. I have known the common garden Snail here figured, when confined for one night under a glass of more than four inches in diameter, which was placed on a sheet of common blue paper, entirely devour the whole paper contained in the included

ded space, to the very edge of the glass, so that a circular piece seemed almost as accurately taken out, as if marked by a pair of compasses.

From the experiments of SPALLANZANI and others, it appears that Snails are possessed of a very considerable degree of reproductive power. SPALLANZANI in particular, has found that the whole head of a Snail may be cut off, and yet in a certain space of time will be reproduced. This has been denied by some, but its truth is established by experiments conducted by the most careful and accurate observers.

It is necessary to add, that the Snails in the annexed plate, are represented at somewhat too great a distance from each other; this is a circumstance which admits of great variation, but in general the animals make a nearer approach before they dart their spicula; and in some particular instances they have been known to approach so near during this action, that the dart has been infixed in the manner of a sword, in which case the animal that discharged it, withdraws again to some little distance, and seems to wait for a similar attack.